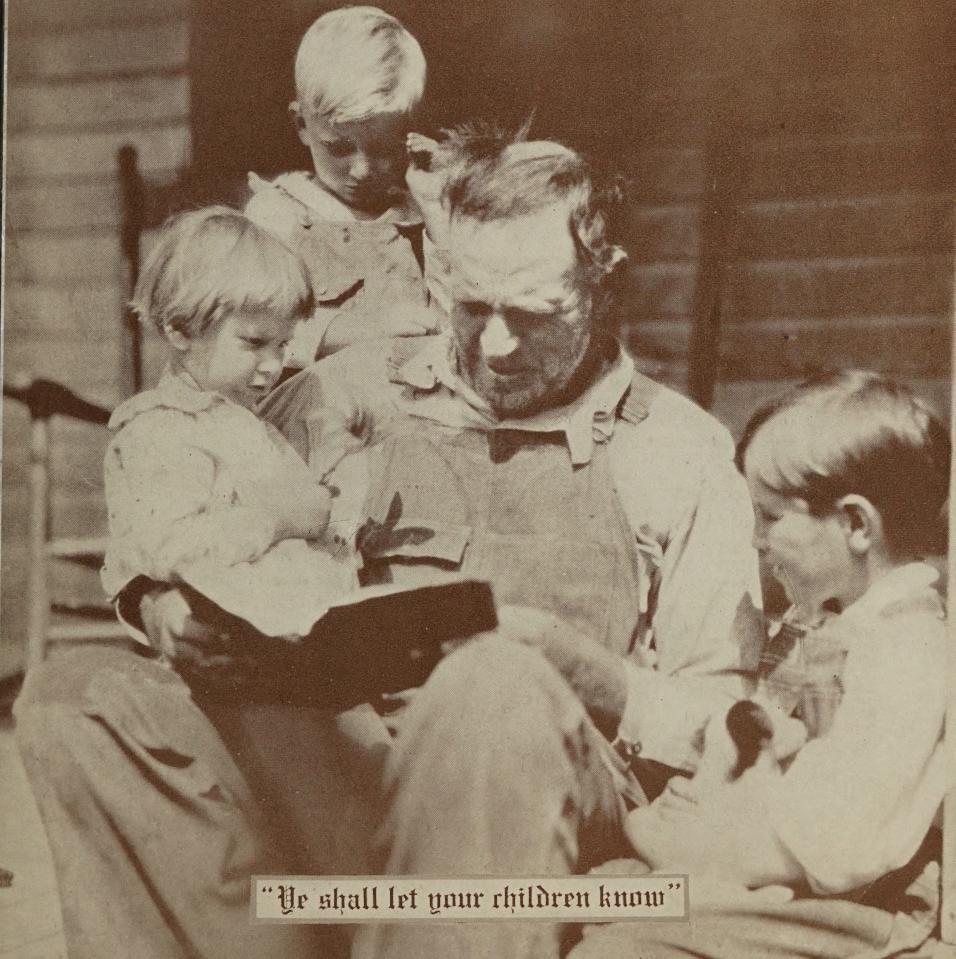
# Story of the American Bible Society

JUN 1 9 1933

Pam Misc,

117th Dear 1932



### The President and the Bible



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I feel that a comprehensive study of the Bible is a liberal education for anyone. Nearly all of the great men of our country have been well versed in teachings of the Bible, and I sincerely hope that the habit of Bible study will be developed among the people.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

It was significant that Mr. Roosevelt, on his way to inauguration, went to a church for a brief service of prayer. All may well share in the fine wish by Dr. Glenn Frank which follows:

"I wish for Mr. Roosevelt clarity of mind when he deals with the problems before him; candor of statement when he deals with the people behind him; and courage of purpose when he deals with the politicians around him."

The Dutch Bible pictured above has been in the possession of the Roosevelt family for nigh three centuries. On it, opened at I Corinthians 13, shown in the picture, the President took his oath of office on March 4, 1933. He had used it twice in taking the oath as governor of New York State. In it, births, deaths, and marriages of Roosevelts are recorded from 1670 down to 1840.

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# The Story for 1932

of the

## American Bible Society

from

### The Report of the Board of Managers



WELL-KNOWN Bible scholar, in commenting on Saint Paul's letters to the Corinthians, states that, when the apostle penned them, he was "tossing on a sea of troubles." That he had had an extraordinary amount of anxiety and suffering is memorably depicted in the sen-

tences beginning with the statement, "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one." With disheartening experiences behind him and with perplexing ones confronting him, we read with admiration, perhaps with wistfulness, his courageous declaration, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair."

Amid conditions not wholly unlike those in which Saint Paul labored, and in a spirit not dissimilar to his, the work of Troubled, yet not distressed



In highways and byways

Bible distribution was carried on during 1932. "The weariness, the fever, and the fret" of a disturbed world bore down heavily on every phase of the American Bible Society's work. Income was reduced, the budget was lowered, needed and desired ministries were unmet, and anticipated plans were postponed. Yet, everyone associated with our enterprise of encouraging a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures can unite with Saint

Paul in saying: "We are troubled on every side, yet not dis-

tressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair."

"The glory of going on" has not been denied us. Funds providentially provided in better times, and carefully safeguarded, have made possible the certainty of new Bible houses in both Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo; the expectation of a decade has been realized in the publishing of the new self-pronouncing series of English Bibles; translators have kept steadily at their sacred task with gratifying results; and closer and more friendly cooperation with our great sister societies—the British and Foreign Bible Society and the National Bible Society of Scotland—has been assured through a significant conference. Universal Bible Sunday was observed more widely and more satisfactorily than in any preceding year. The approval and cooperation of the churches, in spite of a recession in contributions, were never more manifest. Despite the reduction in income and in face of salary cuts and appropriation reductions, no Agency either in the United States or abroad has had to be abandoned, and no full-time workers have had to be recalled. Because of these signal tokens of God's favor, and with an optimism born of faith, this report is submitted in the spirit in which Saint Paul advanced our Lord's work —a spirit summarized in his great phrase, "rejoicing in hope."

of going on

The glory

### I. ISSUES

### 1. Volumes

Everyone interested in a missionary society knows that statistics do not tell the story of any year, but the full story must include statistics. For the first time in eight years the issues of Scripture volumes for the work by the Society, at home and abroad, are less than the 9,000,000 mark. Even so, they still remain larger than those of any of the preceding 109 years of the Society's history. There were 244,410 Bibles, 426,129 Testaments, 7,396,617 Portions, or a total of 8,067,156 volumes of Scripture issued during the year under review. Less though the total is, there can be no question that, as in former years, the service rendered was of high intrinsic value. In times of difficulty and hardship, where the Word is received, it is bound to be read with care and eager search for its help. The year's service has raised the total for the 117 years of the Society's distribution of Scriptures to 246,046,560 volumes.

Over eight million Of this great total, approximately 120,000,000 volumes have been issued from the Bible House in New York since its erection in 1853. The great bulk of this huge number went to Auxiliaries, Home Agencies, and other distributors, for circulation within the United States. But many hundreds of thousands have gone to countries in Latin America; and some tens of thousands to Africa, and the islands of the Seas. In 20 languages, the only plates for printing the Scriptures are at the Bible House, where they were made from manuscripts provided by missionary translators.

Some big figures and facts

The next largest unit of issues is that from our work in China. During the century of this work in that great land, approximately 70,000,000 volumes have been issued by the American Bible Society in Mandarin and Wenli, and in several colloquials. The Japan Agency is third in the grand total of volumes reported as issued, having record of over 12,000,000, supplied almost entirely for distribution in Japan.

### 2. Languages

During 1932, the home and foreign workers of this Society handled Scriptures in 180 languages and dialects. The Home Agencies reported work in 99, the Foreign Agencies in 111, and the foreign correspondents in 28; while at the Bible House in New York the Scriptures were handled in 134 of these languages. It is a part of a liberal education to read over the names of these 180 languages and dialects, to be found on page 41.

Part of a liberal education

Through the combined efforts of translators and Bible Societies, chiefly the British and Foreign Bible Society, the number of languages and dialects in which some part of the Bible has been printed has risen to the amazing total of 936. The whole Bible is now available in 174 languages, the New Testament in 190 additional, and whole books of the Bible in 481 still other languages or dialects. Translations of less than a book are in the remaining ninety-one. Several hundreds of these languages had no written form until provided with alphabet and grammar by missionaries, in order that the peoples could have the Bible in their own tongues. It is a noble service rendered by Christian scholars and Christian philanthropy to the literacy and the spiritual life of the peoples of the earth.

A noble service

### II. DISTRIBUTION

### 1. The World Field

The unity with which the whole world now feels the impact of great economic and political tides is demonstrated in the fact that there is no field and no phase of the work of the Society in which the pressure of radical economic and social changes and their political reverberations has not been felt. Whether it be the Pacific islander, whose mail comes once in two or three months, who cannot sell his copra for enough to buy Scriptures at the usual prices, or the workman forty minutes from Broadway who is dependent on city or charitable funds to keep his family alive, each and all pulsated with hope or despair as the economic scene shifted rapidly but in no positive direction. From nearly every Agency at home and abroad comes the report of diminished circulation due to the incapacity of people to pay even nominal prices. In the Foreign Agencies, especially those where the country was not on, or left, the gold monetary standard, the work has been well kept up, but the people have not been able to respond. Sufficiently radical measures in cutting the prices of books have not been feasible. The diminished income of the Society required the absorption of the gains in exchange by reducing appropriations in order to keep the budget balanced.

But, nevertheless, spiritual forces have been active in fresh ways. The year has seen a very considerable distribution of



Secretary Franklin spent a week end in Scripture distribution 75 miles from Chiengrai with six of this team. All are deeply interested, and always carry a good supply on their trips

A rare event

universal condition

Scriptures in every field and many evidences of new doors opened for entrance. Indeed, it contained a rare event of very considerable importance: the first delegated conference of the three major Bible Societies—the British and Foreign Bible Society, the National Bible Society of Scotland, and the American Bible Society. From six to eight delegates from each Society

met in the Bible House in London in July. The results in the drawing of minds and hearts close together, and the attainment of a common mind on matters of basic policy, far exceeded anticipations. The central question was the future policy in China—the major foreign field of all three Societies. Were the Societies to look forward in this great area to continued separate relationships to the Chinese Church, with the resulting complication and duplication of administration at every step? The major decision of the Conference was the acceptance, as the goal, of the formation of a national Chinese Bible Society, indigenous in membership and leadership, carrying responsibility for distribution in its own territory, and a sharer in the world-wide work. The goal will take years, but already the response in China has been very hearty. As a means thereto, the Conference recommended the formation of a capable advisory council in Shanghai, which will assist the three Societies in practically every phase of the work. In addition to this conference, another was held between secretaries and other officers of the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society, which was of very great value in laying the lines of new and close collaboration between these two great enterprises for the kingdom of God.

Latin America

Latin America as a whole has been in an exceptional state of turmoil during the year. Political revolutions and dictatorships, civil and international wars, drought and famine forcing the migration of thousands of families in Brazil, cyclone and hurricane in the West Indies, and persistent economic distress everywhere have brought many idealistic leaders of these idealistic people to a point of discouragement. Yet, even in this period the foundations of a Bible-loving Christianity, we believe, are being steadily, better and more truly laid.

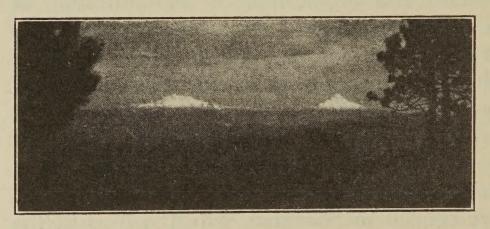
In the West Indies Agency, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary by special measures for extending circulation, the year is summarized thus: "Minds very anxious to know; hands quickly extended to receive; but pockets empty of that with which to buy." Accordingly, though an increase in the total circulation has been achieved, the sale of Bibles and Testaments fell off, yet not below 1930. The rise of more "minds anxious to know," because of discovery of the limitations of

A goal

A fiftieth anniversary material satisfactions, is the hopeful note. The work has been prosecuted with vigor; ninety-three towns have been visited for the first time; articles of food have constantly been accepted in lieu of cash.

Evangelical activity rising

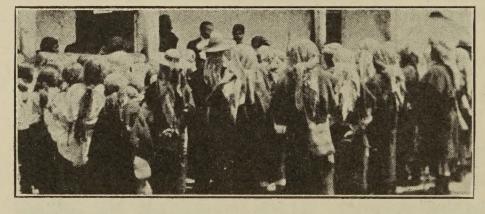
In Mexico, the flow of evangelical activity, dependent so largely now on the national forces, has been steadily rising. With it has risen the circulation by the Agency and the num-



A VIEW
FROM
MEXICO
CITY

ber of colporteurs employed. Sales of Bibles and Testaments have been somewhat larger, and the distribution of portions has nearly doubled. The churches cooperate heartily in the work and in its support. The field is open here for increased sowing on good soil.

The hourglassshaped Agency In the hourglass-shaped Caribbean Agency, with the Cristobal Bible House at the focus, testimony is borne also of the ripeness of opportunity. The conclusion of a notable six years' campaign in El Salvador was reached, in which house-to-house canvassing has been done in every one of the 262 towns of



ABSORBED
BY THE
GOSPEL
STORY
IN THEIR
OWN
TONGUE

that republic. Mr. Halliday, the Society's colporteur, by whom the major part of the work has been done, reports the circulation by this campaign of 1,939 Bibles, 5,090 Testaments, and 150,879 Gospels and other parts. During a government anti-communist campaign, colporteurs were accused by fanatics of being communists, and Bibles were burned. Colombia remains the most difficult and unworked field in this Agency.

In the Upper Andes Agency,—Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, political disturbances have likewise cast suspicion upon colporteurs. Some now make a practice of selling Scriptures first to the chief of police and his officers before canvassing the town, that they may thereby establish their innocence in advance. Systematic promotion of distribution of Scriptures among the Quechua Indians in the area between Lake Titicaca and Cuzco has revealed their great interest in securing them in their own tongue. Several of the so-called "lost valleys" of Peru, where the population is isolated, have been visited, as well as many places along the more-beaten tracks. The Agency is systematically reaching out into large sections of unworked territory, as in Bolivian Santa Cruz, in the Cochabamba Valley, and in Valle Grande. The circulation, as a whole, shows some diminution in quantity; but there is good reason to believe it is being carried out more effectively. The

"Lost valleys" visited



Not yet reached by the Gospel

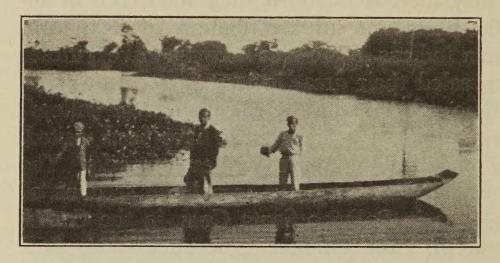
Quechua Indians of Peru

depository in Lima has been relocated to advantage on a busy street, where its attractive window draws passers-by.

In the La Plata Agency territory,—Argentine, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile,—in spite of the economic depression, serious difficulties in the transmission of funds and disturbed political conditions, the circulation of the Agency shows a marked increase in Bibles, Testaments, and Gospels, which, though not up to 1930, is well beyond 1931. Local contributions have also improved. Calls for Scriptures are coming more and more from interior points—a sign that the circles of interest are widening. The cooperation of the churches in the distribution is very marked, several maintaining "Bible coaches," which travel through the country, selling Scriptures.

In Brazil, some agitation of religious questions in connection with governmental policies has made the atmosphere more favorable for the work of distribution, as did also the signifi-

cant meeting of the World's Sunday School Association at Rio in July. The activity of military forces in the São Paulo uprising led to the distribution of Gospels among the wounded, sick, and imprisoned; but the uprising cut off a large area



THUS
COLPORTEURS
TRAVEL
WATERWAYS
OF BRAZIL

from the Rio office, and for some time workers in this region

were without a supply of Scriptures.

The year's chief event was the breaking ground for the new Bible House on the new Avenida Erasmo Braga, and its rapid erection. Even in its unfinished state it won much commendation from visitors to the Sunday-school Convention. God willing, it shall be a fountain place from which refreshing streams shall flow throughout this great country.

### The Near East

Throughout the Near East, so often the scene of war in some form, peace and good will have been slowly rising, and ancient enemies have been fraternizing. But, over all has spread the fog of economic stagnation, making distribution a struggle by every method but that of gift. Nevertheless, there are shaping new alignments of forces that suggest new advances for the Bible Societies in the near future. In the Levant Agency, an effort was made by Islamic leaders to revitalize Islam by the reading of the Koran in the mosques in Turkish instead of Arabic. It has not turned out so far to be of the value anticipated. The steady secularization of the Turkish state is breaking down fanatic barriers to the diffusion of the Scriptures and to Christian witness-bearing, though it, some day, may erect others. With its significant language reform, the production of the new Turkish translation of the Scriptures is successfully keeping pace. The Gospels and Acts have been launched with unexpected success. In Bulgaria, barter has been increasing as a method of sale, and has helped somewhat in

A fountain place

Fanatical barriers breaking down distribution; but, in spite of special efforts to cover the entire territory, circulation has decreased. An interesting personal incident has been the appreciation for Scriptures and counsel shown by an imprisoned bandit, captured a year ago by the Society's courageous shopman in the act of robbing the shop. "Your example brought me to my senses. \* \* \* I shall open my heart to you as I have to no one else anywhere in the world." Encouraging word comes from Macedonia that, in spite of all the adverse factors, including a severe earthquake, circulation has risen somewhat, especially at the shop in Saloniki. One colporteur—a converted brigand—has canvassed over five hundred villages in the past four years.

In the Arabic-Levant Agency, distribution as a whole is likewise less, sales being well-nigh impossible over considerable areas. Needs have been met by considerable grants to mission and church workers for discreet giving. In Egypt, the American United Presbyterian Mission's program for Bible study is bearing good fruit. There is evidence that the demand among Moslems is growing. In Syria, a colporteur reports good hearings among both Moslems and Druses, and entrance into Metawali villages which were closed to him two years ago. Similar experiences are reported in Palestine and Transjordania. One man, who had remarked, in a crowd, that Mohammed was the only saviour, said to the colporteur privately, "I had to say that, because I feared the other Arabs. Do please give me a Gospel." Cooperation with the Arabian Mission of the Reformed Church at Muscat, Kuweit, and Bahrein continues steady seed sowing in eastern Arabia.

A personal incident

Demand among Moslems growing

### In the Far East

Significant Bible cause history was written in China, in 1932, despite the remains of flood and famine, banditry and confusion, and wars, real but undeclared. The initial celebrations of the centennial of the American Bible Society's work in China held in and near Hankow awakened wide interest, thousands of people participating. Following out the hopeful forecast of the London Conference already mentioned, the Chinese Christian community has readily and capably responded with leadership in forming local committees, which will some day be auxiliaries of a national Bible Society. A contribution of \$5,000 from a Chinese supporter is already in trust for the

A centennial and a beginning

national organization when that shall come into being. Likewise significant is the announcement of the amalgamation of the offices of the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society at Hankow to serve the great area of central China as one instrument for the cause supported by both Societies. This is the first such arrangement in the history of the two Societies. It is expected to be repeated at other points in China as rapidly as regional readjustments permit.

The war around Shanghai disrupted work at headquarters and destroyed the plants of the commercial printers at which



"PERSUADING THEM CONCERNING JESUS"

the Society's Scriptures had been printed. A number of the staff were in great danger, but fortunately no lives were lost and no considerable property damage done. Recuperative powers—always astonishingly great in China—have come to the fore, and in many ways new streams of hopeful influence are breaking through, and not least within the Christian constituency. The distribution of whole Bibles shows, for the three Bible Societies combined, the largest circulation so far—nearly three times that of 1927 when the rise began. Circulation as a whole has dropped somewhat less than ten percent, which is by no means surprising. In several sections, distant areas, as Kansu and Kokonor, can now be more easily reached due to the extension of motorbus routes. In West China, the circulation of Scriptures has risen.

Characterized by a local newspaper as "the worst and uneasiest year in Japan's history," 1932 has not so reflected itself in Bible Society work. Circulation was markedly lower, and many difficulties were encountered during the year; but a large volume of work was done. Two hundred and ninety-seven towns and villages were covered by the colporteurs, over 320,000 houses being canvassed and nearly 415,000 Gospels and other Scriptures sold—about two-thirds of the total circula-

Largest circulation in Bibles

first

step

320,000 houses canvassed tion of the Agency. This rural distribution by the colporteurs is encouraging; for, though there is a slight boom in some phases of Japan's national economy, the farmers are still severely hampered with debt and very slight cash incomes. There is continued evidence of serious concern, by individuals and by educational authorities, over the need of a sounder national moral culture and the aid which religion can give in its establishment.

Religion's aid needed

In the Philippines as elsewhere, there is much encouragement in the activity of national evangelical forces. Some thirteen small groups formed by schism have united in a single self-supporting, self-governing church. Reductions of mission budgets have thrown national workers heavily on national support with courageous response. These and other factors, such as the debates on political independence, have quickened religious concerns; but the continued lack of cash has considerably affected the sale of Scriptures. In one barrio the



A "barrio" or village

total returns from sales were seven centavos, eighty-eight roasting ears of corn, one ripe mango, and thirty green mangoes! "Depression and grasshoppers have fought us on every front." The clearing off of heavy past obligation for publication required reduction in the budget, and colportage was lessened. But by the remaining colporteurs new areas were visited and energetic work done. An increase in the number of volunteer workers and correspondents did much to compensate. Fresh measures of training in Bible salesmanship for young people and pastors hold much promise for the future. In March, Secretary Cameron withdrew after eleven years of service marked by unusual difficulty in the destruction of Philippine plates in the Japan earthquake. The Rev. E. K. Higdon, who succeeds him as Acting Secretary, has opened widely the field of practical cultivation of the church membership.

New areas visited

In Siam, where it seemed least expected, a political revolution took place, characteristically, however, with practically no violence or hysteria. The new constitution requires larger responsibilities of the people. Inevitably, such measures will quicken the pulse of this quiet land and open new doors to the new thoughts which Christianity offers. With a fine tribute to retiring Secretary Irwin's twenty years of service, and a welcome to Rev. R. O. Franklin, once president of Bangkok Christian College, who has been eagerly greeted by former students, the Agency enters a new period of advance. New and excellent quarters have been found, of larger service to the Christian community. The number of workers has been increased. The policy, new locally, of sales rather than free distribution has been insisted on, with the gratifying result of sales three and a half times those of 1931. The total of circulation has been reduced by a justified conservatism in free grants. The interest and support of the churches is full of hope of steady growth.

A new hand at an old work

### In Europe, Africa, and the Islands

The correspondents of the Society in Europe faithfully report effective use of the modest grants which the Society makes. In Italy, some indication of a deepened interest in the Scriptures is reported in the Abruzzi, as shown when the workers go to the people with the Book instead of waiting for the people to come to them. The Bible Society of France expresses very hearty gratitude for American help in its work, particularly in grants used among prisoners. Russia continues to keep the door closed to the Scriptures.

Grants and new editions

Some new editions are in preparation for Africa, but stocks there have required little from the Bible House this year.

In the Pacific Islands, an interesting request was granted for Scriptures in Chamorro, the native language of Guam, from the bandmaster of the U. S. Army forces stationed there. Five hundred Truk Testaments were sent to Truk Island, and 1,100 Bibles and 250 Testaments to the London Mission in the Gilbert Islands. The mission, which is most faithful in returning the proceeds of the sale of Scriptures, expresses warm appreciation of reductions in prices to meet the changed conditions, and of the privilege of granting Bibles for use in the schools it maintains.

### 2. In the United States

The conditions which have underlain the distribution of Scriptures in the United States during 1932 have been too general throughout the country to need amplified description. Everywhere economic pressure has pushed down the circulation. This appears most radically in the Western Agency, where two evangelistic groups, which had called for 100,000 Gospels in 1930 and again in 1931, were unable to order. Indeed, there is evidence that a considerable part of the decline in circulation is due to the reduction of missionary funds. From the Pacific Agency it is indicated that purchases for personal use have not only kept up, but increased. Taking the country as a whole, the circulation has fallen off most radically in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and west of Ohio and the Mississippi Valley. The best record has been set by the South Atlantic Agency with only a slight decrease, and by the National Capital Agency and the Agency among the Colored People, both of which show increases.

The lines of work continue much the same from year to year. Foreign-language work decreases with the stopping of

Areas

of

decrease

and

increase

FILIPINO
C. E. DISTRIBUTORS
OF
PROVERBS
ON
RIZAL DAY,
SAN
FRANCISCO



immigration, and even the reversal of that tide among the Mexicans of the Southwest. Colportage, still invaluable for certain types of work and certain areas, continues as expensive and difficult to support as in other recent years. Nothing can really take the place of the personal worker, consecrated to the Bible cause and on full-time direct house-to-house, person-to-person labor. What this means in thoroughness, is shown in the report of one veteran, that out of 8,082 families visited in the year, 1,270 were without the Scriptures. This was in 7 counties around Rochester, New York.

Personal workers invaluable

Much has been hoped for from the stimulation of pastors of local churches to undertake or direct local canvasses, and much good has been done thereby. All too often, however, such hopes disappear under the stress of other preoccupations; or inadequate local attention to details of finance leave the Agency with too high an "Accounts Receivable." Workers of missionary boards or local missions, where carefully selected and coached, are among the most valuable helpers the Society has; and in some areas the Agency would be quite at a loss without them. Traveling through neglected regions as many of them do, they make contacts for the Society's service that are often continued by direct service. Another method is that pursued in the great "mail order region" of the West. One Agency reports some two thousand centers, consisting, for example, of a store containing a post office, a garage, and a few houses. In most of these two thousand centers there are no religious services whatever, and in the rest services are spasmodic—perhaps two or three months out of the year. By dint of inquiry, some one is found who will canvass the community and send in orders. To send a paid worker through these communities would be prohibitive in cost. They are too far apart and often in more or less inaccessible locations.

The tale of 2,000 centers

Gratitude

Under the conditions of the last year, anxiety has been felt over the many who were utterly unable to buy, and yet who would be sure to use well the Scriptures they received. With this in view, the Board of Managers assigned an extra \$4,000 to be used in grants. Four or five times the sum could well have been used. The expressions of gratitude have been touching. From the southern mountains one worker wrote: "The Bibles have all gone to some of our best Sunday-school scholars who have never owned Bibles. Many of the homes here are Bibleless." From a woman in a Florida town: "I believe that this book was sent me of the Lord, who wanted me to be comfortable in these trying times." From the Southwest the Secretary writes of concentration on Bibleless homes because of many stories of sacrifices to secure the Scriptures. In one case, two mothers in Oklahoma chopped and hauled wood from a river bottom to buy Bibles for their children, barefoot even in winter. Something of the variety of groups aided, in addition to individuals and churches, by these enlarged donations is indicated by a few: Baptist Italian Institute, Kansas City; Utah

Gospel Mission; Agua Negra Presbyterian School; Jicarilla Apache Indian Mission; Lutheran Mission, Great Falls; Nazarene Sanitarium, Nampa; Texas State Penitentiary; Burton Home for Delinquent Boys; Texas Star of Hope for Aged Men; School for Delinquent Girls, Belaire; U. S. Leper Colony, Carville; Methodist Mexican Missions; U. S. Veterans' Hospital, San Antonio—thus the list could go on.

A new feature of the work in the Atlanta Division of the Colored Agency has been the young people's and other conferences which have stimulated the young people both to receive and read the Scriptures and also to aid in their sale to others. Secretary Stanton writes: "We have literally seen whole communities awakened to a consciousness of that need which the Bible's message alone can give, and we have marked the

Communities awakened



THE CONFERENCE AT ORLANDO, FLORIDA, SURPASSED ALL EXPECTATIONS

glow on their faces—a glow which evidenced the presence within them of a 'new found joy,' as they have turned the pages of a Bible, Testament, or portion.' One worker, after a morning given to distribution in a poverty-stricken section of Columbus, Georgia, revisited it in the afternoon and within two blocks counted twenty-five persons on their porches reading the Gospel. For evidences such as these, many times multiplied, we give thanks to God.

We give thanks

### 3. Service to the Blind

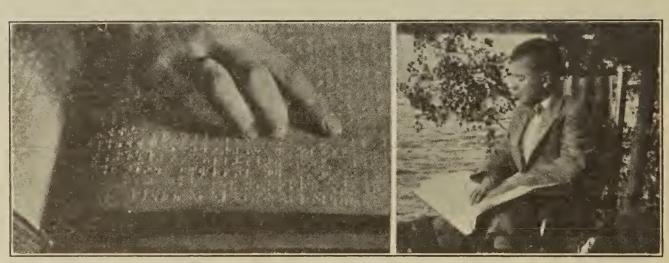
There is a peculiarly satisfactory and rather unique characteristic in the service to the Blind. Every volume goes out in response to an expressed need and desire, and every volume is, therefore, sure of eager reading and frequent use. Practically every book goes directly from the Bible House to actual use. None is sent to rest on the shelves of distributors. The rela-

tively few that do not go to the individual user are sent in response to requests from homes for the aged, industrial homes for those in middle life, schools for blind children in the various states, kindergartens where the little blind tots are sheltered. In all these, the volumes serve a larger number and succeeding groups. A few even go to state prisons and reformatories; sadly enough, there are blind inmates of such.

To strange places

During the year, nearly 1,000 individuals (967) and 31 institutions serving another 600 or more, were supplied. To 17 state schools for the Blind 191 copies of the small volume of Scripture Passages in Braille were sent, on their request, for presentation to graduates and other students leaving school permanently. The Blind and their friends paid toward the 3,809 volumes sent out in this country \$1,185, which exceeded the special price of twenty-five cents a volume at which the Society, aided by the contributions of friends, supplies these expensive books. They have been bought for fellow pupils by adult Bible and other Sunday-school classes or Sunday schools. They have been sought by blind ministers and evangelists for their own use in preaching the Word; by newspapermen and

When fingers are eyes



blind storekeepers; theological seminary students, and shut-ins. There is no limit to the variety of those served and of those participating in this service.

Abroad, 701 volumes were supplied in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Siamese, Mandarin, and Japanese Braille, the bulk (436), as in the past, being distributed by our Japan Agency.

In other lands and languages

All told, 4,510 volumes of embossed Scripture were distributed through the activity of the Bible Society during the year, bringing the total of its 98 years of work for the Blind to a distribution of 106,382 volumes, of which 92,355 were supplied in the United States.

### 4. Workers

One of the real marvels of life the world around is the postal service. If one but stops to think, or lets imagination play, how great is the debt of individuals, communities, and nations to those who carry, in crowded cities, in rural districts, across weary deserts, through tangled jungles, and over small and large waterways, the missives which stimulate and facili-





The old, old story, evernew

tate life and bind hearts together. Well deserved is the tribute to postmen in the inscription on the Post Office in the capital city of our nation,

> Messenger of sympathy and love Servant of parted friends Consoler of the lonely Bond of the scattered family Enlarger of the common life

Equally appropriate are these lines to the vendors of God's message to man,—the colporteurs, the correspondents and the volunteer workers who distribute Bibles, Testaments and Portions in office and school, in home and tenement, and throughout the same lonely and difficult territories reached by the postmen. During the past year, the work of the Society was forwarded by the cooperation of 3,645 men and women of character and devotion which alone would respond to the physically difficult, financially unremunerative but spiritually blessed work. In this total are counted, in addition to the general officers, and the Secretaries in charge of the twenty-one Agencies and four Division Agencies at home and abroad, 29 subagents, 328 colporteurs, 1,620 correspondents, 1,462 volunteer workers, and 177 in office and shipping de-

3,645 cooperated partments. Of these, 4 subagents, 24 colporteurs, 477 correspondents, 1,004 volunteer workers and 38 office and shipping staff worked with the Home Agencies; 25 subagents, 301 colporteurs, 1,101 correspondents, 314 volunteer workers, and 85 office and shipping staff were connected with the Foreign Agencies; and 3 colporteurs, 42 correspondents, and 144 volunteer workers were recorded as accomplishing the distribution by the foreign correspondents.

### 5. Auxiliaries

Through another year of strain and stress our Society has received the loyal support of the cooperating auxiliaries. Some of these carry full responsibility for Bible work in their own states or sections, at the same time remitting to our Society such funds as they can make available to help support the world-wide work. Others do little or no work of local Bible distribution, but send their available funds to the Society. We deeply appreciate the loyalty and generosity of the members of these faithful groups, who are determined that the work of Bible distribution shall not suffer, more especially in times like these.

### III. TRANSLATION AND REVISION

On a flyleaf of the great "Linguistic Survey of India" which records with illustrations its 872 languages and dialects —are reproduced, in Greek, these words from the fourteenth chapter of the First Letter to the Corinthians: "There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification." Saint Paul lived in a world of many languages, as the second chapter of the Acts reveals, yet he probably little guessed that there were hundreds of forms of human speech into which his words would some day be translated. He saw, however, the essential fact about any of them—that the gospel cannot be known unless it is in the words that men can understand—"except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken?" Each year sees new voices—new languages and dialects--speaking the words of life to the understanding of men, or speaking those words more clearly and fully where they have been spoken in part before.

Loyal supporters

St. Paul little guessed

### 1. In the Far East

The most active scene in linguistic advance here is in the Philippine Islands, where the multiplicity of dialects assures some translation work going on all the time. Mrs. J. Andrew Hall, whose translation of the New Testament into Samareño was published in 1928, has completed the first Old Testament book, the Psalms, and the Society has published it in Manila. The revision of the Ilocano Old Testament and of the Ibanag New Testament are going forward. For the Mohammedan Moros of the Sulu Archipelago, a fresh translation of St. Luke's Gospel has been made by Mr. A. M. Loptson.

It is being printed in Arabic character.

Of very profound significance not only for the Philippines, but for many other parts of the world, is the literacy movement among the Moros devised and led by Dr. Frank C. Laubach, a missionary of the American Board-Congregational. He has devised a method of teaching reading to illiterates which is nothing short of phenomenal in its results. Its essential features are the selection of words and phrases containing the basic syllables of the language, which, once learned, are combined to form new words,—and the use of teachers specially trained in methods of thorough and rapid work. By it thirtyfour thousand Maranaws are reported to have learned to read in a year and a half. It has been applied already to thirteen dialects. The literacy campaign has now extended to the great island of Luzon, and interest in Scripture translations for some of the mountain tribes has been rekindled. The Society has printed the Twenty-third Psalm and other passages in syllabic form on charts for reading practice.

๔๐ มั้ว อี ล่เง ม์เา ตรั่ว ตั้ว - ั่น ู่ พั่ว ตั้ย, นี้ ซู่ ฮเา จ่เา ทเา พั่ว ตั้ย ฮ่า ต่า, "ย่าว พั่ว ตั้ย ษ้า- ฉู่ง ฆเง กู ต่เา ฉู่ง ฮู ๆ, ม่า พั่ว ตับ ๋อั๋ว ต่าา อ่น." ๔๑ พั๋ว ตั้บ ยเซู มั้ว ษ้า- ฃู ลเง นี้ ซา๋ง ต่เ น่า นื้อเฮ่า ตร่เา นี้ ต่า, "กูษ่า- ฉุ่งม่า, ก้เา ม๋เา ตรั่ว ฉุ่งฮู ๆ ซื้."

The year saw the first printing of St. Mark in Tai Lu, Miao, and Yao

In northwestern Siam, the translation of the New Testament into Tai-Lu has now reached Revelation. Old Testament revision in Siamese is awaiting the return of the principal translator from furlough.

Among the islands

Nothing short of phenomenal

> St. Mark 1:40-41 Miao

### 2. In Europe and the Near East

The translation work of the largest potential significance in this area is the new translation of the Scriptures into Turkish. Dr. F. L. MacCallum, of the American Board, and his Turkish associates as translators, together with a collaborating committee, completed during the year the Psalms and the New

Davudun Mezmurudur.

23 Rap çobanımdır; bir eksiğim olmaz.

<sup>2</sup> Beni taze çayırlarda yatırır; Beni sakin sular boyunca götürür. Canımı tazeler; Kendi ismi için beni doğruluk yollarında güder.

From the 23d Psalm.

DR. MACCALLUM->



Testament. The former has been published; the latter is in press. One recollects with interest that the first translator of the Scriptures into Turkish was Albertus Bobowsky (Ali Bey), a Polish slave in the Sultan's court, whose work, completed in 1666, lay for a century and a half before being published. The present translation, the second major work since Ali Bey's day, gives promise of meeting very successfully the standards of modern Turkish style. The sales of the Gospels and Acts have been most encouraging and the comments very favorable. The American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society, which jointly support this translation and publication, have arranged for the work to be extended to the Old Testament also.

For gypsies

translation and the

translator

A new translation, also under joint auspices—the Gospel of St. Luke translated by Mr. Angel Atanasakieff—has appeared for a numerous section of the gypsies of Bulgaria—the Kalaijiski group. The Romany peoples have many language groups among them, but each usually with a dialect peculiarly its own. This group numbers about a hundred thousand.

### 3. Among the Indians of the Americas

The new publication of the year in this field was the Gospel of St. John in Valiente, translated by Rev. E. S. Alphonse, of the Wesleyan Methodist Mission in Bocas del Toro in Panama.

Some seven thousand jungle Indians, as they slowly learn to read, will be the beneficiaries of this patient effort to render into a painfully constricted language the deepest truths concerning human life and destiny. Providentially, these truths can be expressed in simple language. For the Keres Indians of some seven pueblos in New Mexico, Mr. H. C. Whitener's translation of St. Matthew was in type at the end of the year. Word comes from Guatemala of continued work on the translation of the New Testament into Mam, and of St. John into Quiché. Illness has delayed both these translations, but the revision of the Gospels and Acts in Mam was completed. During the months from January to August, three weeks of each month were spent on this revision-Mr. and Mrs. Peck and a group of native colaborers from different dialect regions working five hours a day to make sure that every phrase was correct and clear to readers of different dialect groups.

During the year, manuscripts were under study or awaiting examination in the following additional languages: Shilluk (Sudan), Morē (the Mossi of French West Africa), Otetela (Belgian Congo), Luba-Lulua (Belgian Congo), and Cheyenne (American Indian). A number of aids to translators for examining translations have been prepared, notably the "Guide for Translators," based gratefully on a similar publication of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and check lists for significant words and parallel passages. The library has been enriched, among other additions, by a copy of the first published Greek New Testament, that of Erasmus, of 1516.

# IV. PUBLICATION1. Bible House, New York

The sales and issues for 1932 were less than for the preceding year. A comparison of the dollar value and number of Scriptures issued from the Bible House in New York shows that, whereas the reduction in dollar value was about 25 percent, the number of volumes was only 17 percent less, as is shown by the following figures:

	1931	1932	Reduction
Cash sales	317,456.85	\$237,901.47	25.2%
Volumes issued	4,527,962	3,740,462	17.4%

In line with declining production costs, the catalogue prices of Scriptures were reduced during the year. On February 1,

Keres

and

Mam

Aids to translators 1932, a straight reduction of 20 percent was made on the stock on hand of all Scriptures in foreign languages which were imported from abroad. This brought the catalogue price of these books more in line with present costs due to the fall in foreign exchange rates. This reduction and other reductions on individual books decreased the value of the inventory by \$15,338.08, the greater part of the reduction being in the foreign-language books. Not only a lower unit cost, but also a trend toward the lowest-priced Scriptures, explains the decrease in dollar value of the sales and issues as compared with previous years.

A difficult period A period of declining costs is always a difficult one for manufacturing concerns:

First, because the dollar value of sales falls off, while operating costs do not diminish proportionately.

Second, because of the necessity to reduce the selling prices or catalogue value of the stock in the inventory.

In spite of these two factors, the Publication Department closed the year in a very strong liquid position. Cash on hand



JAPANESEAMERICAN
SUNDAYSCHOOL
TEACHERS IN
CALIFORNIA
WHOM THE
PUBLICATION
DEPARTMENT
SERVES

was ample for all normal needs, and there were no accounts payable or unpaid bills outstanding.

New Books. In another way the year was one of liquidation of old stocks; for, in order to prepare for the new series of English King James text Bibles with aids to pronunciation, a special effort was made to dispose of the stock of Agate, Minion, and Brevier Bibles. Under normal sales conditions, it would have been much easier to do this. Only the Brevier stock was liquidated during the year, stocks of the other two books being carried over into 1933. The liquidation of the stock of these books marks a milestone in the Society's pub-

The new English series

lication of English Scriptures. Each of these three books has had a long and honorable history, as shown by the following figures of the total number of each book published by the Society:

Brevier Bible, 12mo, 1,843,000 Minion Bible, 18mo, 2,799,000 Agate Bible, 24mo, 3,728,000

The new 12mo Bible is a most attractive book and was produced from a type specially prepared for the Society. A sample of this is shown herewith. In addition, it is the first Bible

Of fasting. Of the sabbath. The twelve ordained

ST. MARK 2, 3

thy disciples fast not?

19 And Jesus said unto them, Can the was restored whole as the other.

Phar'i-sees used to fast: and they come on them with anger, being grieved for and say unto him, Why do the disciples the hardness of their hearts, he saith of John and of the Phar'i-seeş fast, but unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand

children of the bridechamber fast, while 6 And the Phăr'i-sēeş went forth, and the bridegroom is with them? as long as straightway took counsel with the Hēthey have the bridegroom with them, rō'dĭ-ănş against him, how they might

Actual size: A large, attractive and easily read type, cloth binding, red edges—only 50 cents
Also see page 42

with helps to pronunciation that has been published by the Society. Although in a large, attractive and easily read type, this book in cloth binding with red edge is planned to sell for only 50 cents net. For churches, Sunday schools, and individual use it is a most attractive and serviceable book.

A new five-cent Testament was issued during the year. This book, with paper cover, is sewed instead of wire-stitched as was the case in the previous five-cent book. This New Testament also has aids to pronunciation and makes use of a modern and attractive type face. Its size is 33/8x43/4.

The success of the two-cent Psalms with paper cover has led to plans being made for producing the Four Gospels in the King James Version in English in similar form. On account of the length of the Gospels, it was necessary to use a very small type in the one-cent series produced several years ago. This will not be necessary in the new series, which will be available during 1933. These will carry aids to pronunciation, and should answer a real need for an inexpensive edition of the Gospels in an easily read type.

During the year a diglot edition of Valiente and Spanish St. John was produced.

Two-cent portions

### 2. Foreign Agencies

Two of the Foreign Agencies suffered losses in publications during the year—the China Agency by the destruction of publishing houses during the Shanghai war, and the Japan Agency by a fire at the printers. Fortunately, the losses were not large and were well covered by insurance. In China, the editions of 1932 bear an extra title-page commemorative of the centennial of the Society's work in that land.

"Something accomplished, something done"

In Siam, new publications for the first time are the Gospel of St. Mark, the Acts, and the Epistles (except the General Epistles) in Tai-Lu; and St. Mark in Miao and in Yao. In the Philippines, a number of new plates have been made, and a moderate quantity of Bibles, Testaments, and portions were printed.

In the Arabic-Levant Agency, the printing of many of the voweled Arabic Gospels has been transferred from Beirut to Cairo because of lower production and transportation costs. Stock generally has been well replenished. In the Levant Agency, the new Turkish Gospels and Acts and the Psalms have been issued.

At the conference held in London during July and August one of the important matters of discussion was that of closer cooperation in publication. A further study of the mechanical factors involved and of the possibility of avoiding duplication in making plates and editions of Scriptures opens up a field of possible economies that may have most important consequences. Stated in a large way, the problem is one that affects the work of all the national and local Bible Societies in their activities both at home and abroad.

A farreaching problem

### V. FINANCE

### 1. Ways and Means

A thorough canvass of a certain village in the Philippines by a number of workers, including the Agency Secretary, resulted in sales made chiefly through barter. The total cash in the village was estimated at less than a dollar. In proportion to its predepression prosperity this village is likely no poorer than many an American community. Letters to the Society accompanying contributions indicate that all sections of the United States as well as all strata of society are experiencing an unparalleled reduction in income.

The seriousness of the recession in gifts from churches and individuals is apparent from a glance at the following table showing such receipts for the last four years:

1929 1930 1931 1932 \$383,605 \$356,287 \$297,979 \$229,334

Churches. The financial relationship of the Society to the supporting churches was subjected last year to the test of an unusually large number of official gatherings meeting under the heavy pressure of necessarily required economy and reductions. Five of these denominations, meeting only quadrennially, had not been in session since 1928; one met last in 1929, and three had not convened since 1930. Whether the serious emergencies confronting their own boards and agencies would result in a reduction of the Society's support, or possibly in its elimination from its customary place, were contingencies which were faced with real concern.

The Society and the churches



Eager for a Gospel

Seventeen denominations in their official gatherings reviewed their financial connection with the Society, and it is a matter of gratification to record that only two voted to reduce their support, three either increased the amount or strengthened the relationship, and the balance voted to continue the plan of support already operating. The attitude of the churches in thus endorsing the Society in an unprecedented financial crisis is reflected in the statement recently made by the Rev. James I. Vance, D.D., chairman of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Southern Presbyterian Church:

The Bible is our greatest missionary. The distribution of the Bible has had more to do with spreading the gospel in non-Christian lands

than any other agency employed, the missionaries themselves being the only more effective influence in connection with our work. We could not get along without the cooperation of the American Bible Society. At every step we are confronted with needs which that Society alone can supply, and which it is supplying in a splendid way.

Contributions from the churches during 1932 totaled \$111,-837, as compared with \$150,864 in 1931—a recession of 25.8 percent. The following table indicates the churches which gave over \$500 during 1932, and their corresponding gifts in 1931:

Over \$500

Denominations	1932	1931
Methodist Episcopal	\$34,445	\$52,829
Presbyterian, U. S. A	27,202	34,686
Methodist Episcopal, South	19,486	23,334
Presbyterian, U. S	9,503	12,165
Reformed Church in America	3,640	4,663
Congregational-Christian	2,919	3,290
United Lutheran	2,658	3,478
Reformed in the U.S	1,694	1,931
Norwegian Lutheran	1,207	1,242
Augustana Lutheran	1,091	1,469
United Brethren in Christ	1,085	962
African Methodist Episcopal	1,045	1,061
Seventh-day Adventist	1,003	1,000
Christian Reformed	944	1,421
Reformed Presbyterian (Covenanter)	629	998
United Presbyterian	554	873
Church of the Brethren	513	278
Methodist Protestant	503	1,002

There are seven denominations which support the Society with a percentage of their benevolence budget, ranging from 2.45 percent down to .25 percent. Seven others make annual grants from a general budget or through one of their boards. Six more secure their gifts for the Society by taking a special offering officially authorized, and four additional take offerings because of an interest which has been created in local churches or in certain organizations within such churches. Several additional miscellaneous methods of support are employed.

Various methods

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Advisory Council, held on November 30, was unusually satisfactory. With representatives of twenty-seven denominations in attendance, more than at any preceding session, the financial problems of the Society's relationship to the supporting denominations were

discussed with the officers and the Budget Committee of the Board of Managers in a way bound to result in a wider and more intelligent support. The "findings" adopted at the end of the day's session contained the following suggestive paragraphs and sentences:

We are impressed anew with the magnitude of the trust administered by the American Bible Society. Almost ten million volumes of the Scriptures were issued and work was done in 182 languages last

year. \* \* \*

We are impressed with the part which the Christian churches have to play in this great work. Not only does the Society look to the churches for at least one-fifth of the income with which to sustain its annual budget, but the churches hold the key to a much larger distribution of the Scriptures than has yet been realized. The American Bible Society is an arm of the church's work in all of its missionary fields; and a larger interest in, and support of, the work of the Society by the churches promotes their own work in bringing those for whom the church is responsible to a saving knowledge of the truth as revealed in our Scriptures."

Individual Gifts. Gifts from individuals in 1932 totaled \$117,497, which was a shrinkage of 20.1 percent below 1931. With these gifts from 18,463 contributors came many cheering letters. A donor from New England wrote: "I am enclosing a gift that I have given for several years. I had rather go without something, than neglect to send it." A western Pennsylvanian included this sentence in his letter: "I am firmly persuaded that I can make no other investment that will do as much good and bring as great a return as this one will." A physician in the Middle West closed his letter by saying: "As long as I have anything to contribute, I feel sure it could not be put to any better use than that to which your great Society assigns it."

2. Budget

Nineteen thirty-two was a year of carefully controlled economies.

Never in recent years has it been necessary to make such drastic curtailment or such thoroughgoing reductions of budget appropriations and salaries. The year began with a budget of \$655,000; but in April, by action of the Board, the expenditure authorized was reduced to \$615,000. Salaries and other expenditures at headquarters were reduced, and the appropriations of the Home and Foreign Agencies as well. By the end of the year, however, it was evident that even further

The Advisory Council impressed

"I am firmly persuaded" economies were necessary. Wherever possible, sums that were appropriated but had not yet been completely disposed of were held up, with the result that actual expenditures amounted to only \$580,544.81. So thoroughgoing was this unusual revision of expenses that, as income under the budget amounted to \$582,865.15, there was a surplus of receipts over expenditures amounting to \$2,320.34. The following figures tell the story:

	Income	Expense	Excess of
Budget on Jan. 1 basis	\$655,000.00	\$655,000.00	Income over
Budget on May 1 basis	615,000.00	615,000.00	Expense
1932 Actual results	582,865.15	580,544.81	\$2,320.34

How it was done

A study of how this unusual result was accomplished shows that there were certain items that actually cost more in 1932 than in previous years. These were (1) first-class postage rates; (2) certain classes of railroad freight; (3) bonding, indemnity, payroll, and other types of insurance; and (4) additional taxes levied on checks, electric kilowatt consumption, and certain telephone and telegraph services. These adverse influences, however, were far outweighed by two most important factors.

- 1. The low rate of exchange of all foreign currencies not on a gold standard; and
- 2. The progressive reduction of wholesale and retail prices throughout the year in the United States and certain other countries.

As a result of these, it was possible in the Society's foreign work to buy more exchange and more materials for less dollars. Any reduction in the cost of Scriptures due to these causes was generally passed on in lower prices to those who use the books; but a saving was possible in the cost value of the Scriptures donated or of those distributed at or below full cost. Not since 1878 had the Society found it necessary to reduce salaries; but it is hoped that this reduction was made up in considerable part by the increased purchasing power of the dollar.

In the depression of 1921, when silver currencies were selling at a great premium, and when the cost of commodities was still relatively high, it would not have been possible to have accomplished as large a reduction without greater injury to the work. It is fortunate, therefore, that these two fundamental factors helped to break in part the full force of the blow of such an unprecedented and drastic curtailment.

Helped by exchange Budget Income and Expense. A detailed comparison of the Budget Income and Expense for 1932 and the average for 1921-1930 is as follows:

		Average
Estimated	Received	Receipts
1932	1932	1921-1930
Legal Trusts and Available Investments. \$156,000.00	\$149,898.72	\$118,797.43
Legacies	110,000.00	66,493.34
Annuities Terminated 60,000.00	60,000.00	18,823.43
Bible House 20,000.00	20,000.00	39 <b>,</b> 854.79
Miscellaneous	1,871.66	2,627.78
Auxiliaries 12,000.00	11,759.98	20,046.99
Individuals (excluding Foreign		
Agencies) 150,000.00	117,497.31	138,864.22
Churches (excluding Foreign Agencies) 145,000.00	111,837.48	234,133.02
Total\$655,000.00	\$582,865.15	\$639,641.00

A study of these figures shows that the largest falling off was in gifts from Churches, which were \$33,162.52 less than



"And planted it in a fruitful field"

Telling Bible stories in Siam

had been estimated in November, 1931, and were only 47.7 percent of the ten-year average. While gifts from Individuals were \$32,502.69 less than estimated, they made a better relative showing and were 84.6 percent of the ten-year average. The only other variation of any size in the income was in the income from Legal Trusts and Available Investments which were four percent less than had been anticipated. This was due in part to lower interest rates on high-grade securities and on cash balances, as well as to certain small reductions or postponements of income due, as is more fully indicated in what follows.

\$61,943.54. Adding to this the income on the Legacy Equalization Fund and the profit on securities sold brings the income for the year up to \$78,272.65. The Legacy Equalization Fund, therefore, which was \$264,009.70 on December 31, 1931, was reduced to \$232,282.35 December 31, 1932, in order to make up the budget appropriation. By storing the excess income of the seven fat years (1924-1930) in the granary of this Legacy Equalization Fund, it is possible to make better provision for the seven lean years that may follow, just as Joseph did in Egypt so many years ago.

Following the tactics of Joseph

Income from the Bible House amounted to \$21,845.26, and the balance over \$20,000 was applied to reducing the cost of previous improvements of the Bible House building.

### 3. Securities

(a) Mortgages. During 1932 the Society owned bonds on which the full interest was not paid when due, of a par value of only \$25,600. Some of these bonds had been received by gift. The Society also accepted deeds to two pieces of improved real estate on which it held mortgages. The owners of these properties were willing to give deeds to the Society to be excused from other amounts that were due. It was also necessary to make two or three slight reductions in interest rate, where the owners proved willing to put their own money into the property in order to conserve their equities.

Guaranteed and unguaranteed At the end of the year, the Society held first mortgages to the amount of \$3,189,437.06. Of these, about 40 percent were unguaranteed loans, the balance being guaranteed by ten different guaranty companies. The largest amount in any one company was \$619,680. There were seven unguaranteed loans on which interest which was due at the end of the year had not been fully paid; and there were nine guaranteed loans on which, though the interest had been paid to the Society by the guaranty companies, it had not been received in full by them from the owner. This was less than 12 percent of the total number of mortgages held by the Society. There were also four properties on which the Society either held an assignment of rents or was endeavoring to obtain a deed from the owner. One of these was taken over by the bondsman who is responsible and is now paying interest again.

(b) Investment Policies. The investments of the Society may be roughly divided into four classes: 1. Mortgages; 2. Railroad bonds; 3. Utility bonds; 4. U. S. Governments, Municipals, Industrials, Common and Preferred Stocks, etc. A comparison of the percentage of the Society's total investments in each of these four groups as of December 31, 1920, and December 31, 1932, shows:

De	cember 31	December 31
	1920	1932
Mortgages	54.7%	39.6%
Railroad Securities	26.1	18.8
Utility Securities		32.8
Miscellaneous		8.8

The market value of all the bonds held by the Society at the end of the year was 16.5 percent less than the book value. The market value of the stocks carried on the books at \$182,-166.10 was 11.5 percent greater than the book value. Entering all the mortgages at par, the total depreciation amounted to about 9.3 percent. The utility bonds held by the Society, amounting to \$2,623,698.75, showed a depreciation of only 3.5 percent. By reducing the percentages of railroad securities and mortgages and by adding such a sizable percentage of electric and gas utility bonds, it is believed the Society has materially strengthened its investment portfolio.

A good showing

### 4. Annuities

Three hundred and fifty-eight new annuities were written during the year. While this number was substantially less than in 1931, the amount received, \$325,743.49, was only 8 percent less. Seventy-six annuities which originally represented gifts of \$150,141, were terminated by death. The annuity reserve fund, which is over and above the main Annuity Fund itself, amounted at the end of the year to \$129,938.96. This is only slightly less than it was at the end of 1931. The appropriation, therefore, of \$60,000 from this source to the Society's general budget was fully justified. In addition to this special reserve, the Society has also in reserve its main Annuity Fund, \$4,295,288. This is equal to the total principal amount given to it by or for all of its living annuitants. This fund is, therefore, very substantially in excess of the legal reserve required by the laws of New York State even at current market prices.

A justified appropriation The Society has no finer or more loyal group of friends than its annuitants. Almost daily one or more beautiful letters from our annuitants are received at the Bible House, and the normal office routine is brightened and made much lighter by their encouragement and Christian fellowship. Those who have contributed to the Society on this basis have a real organic and living share in its work. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."

"One body"

### VI. GENERAL

### 1. Universal Bible Sunday

Your material is very welcome.

Congratulations upon the beautiful and effective poster.

I find the Universal Bible Sunday material a great help in planning for the services of the day.

I feel that the observance of Universal Bible Sunday brings untold

Dr. Beaven's article "Rejoicing in Hope" gave me a very profitable evening last night.

We always observe Bible Sunday, and I was especially happy in its presentation this year.

Messages like the above—and the Society's mail was crowded with them in November and December—are an assurance that interest in the observance of Universal Bible Sunday continues to increase. Requests for responsive readings to the number of 8,004 completely exhausted an edition of slightly over a million, exceeding the requests of the preceding year by about 900. A total of 88,098 complete sets of material consisting of a poster, a brochure by the Rev. Albert W. Beaven, D.D., president of the Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary, and a sample responsive reading, were mailed to as complete a list of pastors in the United States as could be compiled.

The evaluation of Universal Bible Sunday by the Home and Foreign Agency Secretaries may be judged by two typical communications: Mr. Morgan wrote from Dallas: "Bible Sunday this year was better than ever. I have never known such a wide interest on the part of the pastors and the Christian people. \* \* \* The indorsement from the Governor of Texas attracted considerable attention, and his consistent Christian character gave force to his testimony."

A wide and large service

From the Upper Andes, Agency Secretary Ritchie wrote: "Bible Sunday in Peru has brought us much encouragement." A native pastor from the agricultural town of Sicaya sent Mr. Ritchie an expressive letter stating: "We are most grateful for the invitation you sent us to observe Bible Sunday. By adopting your suggestion, we were all greatly blessed." From a mountain village in the province of Jauja Mr. Ritchie received this message: "I must tell you of the service we had on December 4, which was most profitable, thanks to the message in the brochure entitled 'Rejoicing in Hope.' All were greatly moved, and especially the parents, by the verses selected for each letter from A to Z which the children repeated from memory."

Bible Sunday abroad

Thus more and more is Universal Bible Sunday coming to be used for the exaltation of the Book of Books, and for an emphasis on the value of distributing that book widely. It is becoming *Universal* Bible Sunday in fact as well as in name.

### 2. Publicity

The popular illustrated lecture "The Old Book Finding New Friends," having been revised and brought down to date during the summer, was in great demand, especially toward the end of the year. Only a very small fraction of the requests for its use around Universal Bible Sunday could be met, in spite of the fact that, during the year, ten additional sets were manufactured and made available through the lantern slide department of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. The twenty-nine sets in charge of the Home Agencies were used 477 times, and an encouraging use of the twenty sets controlled by the Methodist Episcopal Church was reported.

Among the leaflets issued during the year, "The Bible Helps Us," by Dr. Ralph Sockman, proved very helpful. A new booklet describing the Society's annuity plan, "A Gift That Lives," was issued. "There Was No Bible" and "Open the Book" pamphlets have been widely read. "Where to Look in the Bible" continues to be sought and used largely.

Twenty-one news releases and articles sent to the religious and secular press were given gratifyingly splendid attention by the editors. The following table, showing the inches of space given such releases, indicates a healthy growth in such publicity: Lantern lectures

Leaflets

E STORY FOR 1932
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(1933)

BIBLE SUNDAY 1929	1930	1931	1932
Religious press 687	1,066	1,021	1,013
Daily press	3,380	2,444	2,500
GENERAL			
Religious press 464	1,087	1,793	1,735
Daily press	2,702	2,693	5,804
SPECIAL ARTICLES			
Religious press	714	1,308	1,650
Total	8,949	9,259	12,702
		13001	-29/02

### 3. Bible Houses

Rio and Tokyo 36

The construction of the Bible Houses in Tokyo and Rio went steadily forward during the year. As provision for the cost of both these buildings was made in 1931, their completion will not affect the general budget of the Society in any way. Due to a reduction in costs and to favorable exchange rates in Brazil and Japan, it is believed that the completed buildings will cost considerably less than was originally anticipated. Very favorable comments have been received from those who have seen the buildings and were present at the laying of the cornerstone or at other ceremonies in connection with them. Both of these buildings, together with the other Bible House properties of the Society, will afford homes for the Society's work and will testify to the enduring value of the Bible in the world today.

### 4. Bible Society Record and Other Publications

A monthly report of the production, distribution, and influence of the Word of God should be interesting. Such the Bible Society Record has endeavored, and, judging by comments, has proven, to be to the readers of its average edition of 31,000 copies a month. The Annual Report, restricted to 300 pages last year, and with the form of the reports from various Agencies considerably revamped to provide easily accessible historical data, was issued in the usual edition of 1,500 copies, most of which found places on the reference shelves of missionary societies, libraries, denominational leaders, and other Bible Societies. An especially large edition of the Managers' Report or "Story of the Year," in a total of 11,000 copies, was issued; 8,000 for the specific use of the Ways and Means Department for distribution at General

31,000 a month Assemblies, Synods, and other important denominational gatherings. A limited number of brief leaflets for general use were printed.

### 5. In Memoriam

Tribute has been paid in the columns of the *Bible Society Record* to the following whose decease during 1932 is to be recorded: *Vice-Presidents*—Capt. Robert Dollar on May 16; James N. Gamble on July 2; the Hon. Henry St. George Tucker on October 25; U. S. Senator Wesley L. Jones on November 19. *Ministerial Members of the Board*—Rev. M. G. G. Scherer, D.D., on March 9; the Rev. Frederick Wolcott Jackson on September 2. *Honorary Vice-President*—Bishop R. S. Williams, D.D., on January 13. *Honorary Life Members*—Mr. James Murray, Mr. Fennell P. Turner on February 9; the Rev. James H. Hyatt, D.D., on March 31; Mr. Frank Battles on September 22.

Gone before

### 6. Personnel

During the year the Society was fortunate indeed in that there were no changes in the Board of Managers or the staff because of death. The health of the Rev. Frank Marston, D.D., of the Central Agency, however, did not allow him to continue in active service, and he retired on October 1, 1932. The Rev. G. Bruce Cameron, former Agency Secretary in the Philippines, was appointed to relieve Dr. Marston and took up his duties on October 1 as Secretary of the Central Agency. Mr. Cameron having retired from charge of the Philippines Agency, the Rev. E. K. Higdon was appointed Acting Secretary, taking charge on March 1. The Rev. Robert Irwin, Secretary of the Siam Agency, retired in March after twenty years of service. The Rev. Robert O. Franklin, formerly a missionary of the Presbyterian Board (U. S. A.) in Siam, was appointed Agency Secretary and took up his duties in February.

Agency Secretaries

Mr. George E. Fahys, on May 5, and Mr. Harry A. Kinports, John Baldwin Walker, M.D., and Mr. Ward Melville, on December 1, were elected members of the Board of Managers.

Board members

The Rev. Paul A. Eakin was elected an Honorary Life Member on May 5, in recognition of his service in the revision of the Scriptures in Siamese.

On February 4, U. S. Senator Hiram Bingham, Litt.D., resigned as a Vice-President of the Society, but with assurances of undiminished interest in its work.

### **CONCLUSION**

Such is the story of another year—distressing at some points, but gratifying at many more. Against the background of a chaotic world the activities of the Society glow with the radiance of a service joyfully and often sacrificially performed. The Board of Managers sends this narrative forth, grateful that, amid a trying and perplexing year, the work of the Society, supported by loyal and loving friends, has moved steadily on, carrying near and far the encouraging revelation that "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."



A GROUP FROM MANILA, TYPICAL OF CHILDREN THE WORLD AROUND

What is ahead of them?

# An Offering

"And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered, offered an offering of gold unto the Lord." Exodus 35: 22.

JUST as the Lord's cause in the days of Israel required offerings, so His cause of Scripture distribution needs offerings today. Never were the comfort, the counsel, and the challenge of the Book of Books so badly needed as in these trying, discouraging days. Never has the American Bible Society had more calls for the Scriptures than just now.

In bureau drawers, trunks, attics, closets, safe deposit boxes, jewelry cases, and elsewhere many articles of gold, platinum, or silver are laid away. If they could be put to some worthy use, the owner usually would gladly part with them, even at the sacrifice of hallowed associations.

The American Bible Society has made arrangements to have such articles assayed, refined, and bought. The Society will be happy to accept old rings, bracelets, worn-out watches, dental work, watch chains and fobs, earrings, old coins, cuff links, stick pins, spectacle frames, cane tops, and similar items; and, by disposing of them, use the money thus realized in the work of Bible distribution.

Wrap carefully, put your own name and address on the package, insure or register, and mail to

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
Bible House, Astor Place
New York City

# The Year 1932 in Figures

Home Foreign Correspondents						• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Bibles 189,208 49,244 5,958	Testaments 279,568 140,320 6,241		Portions 3,347,190 3,991,565 57,862	Total 3,815,966 4,181,129 70,061
							244,410	426,129		7,396,617	8,067,156
			—III.	WORK	ERS-			***	III. CII	RCULATION	-NC
	Agey.	-Sub-									
Home Agencies	Secs.	Agts.	#Cols.	SCor.	∥Vol.	"Office	Total	Bibles	Testaments	Portion	Total
Colored	+	•	co.	46	21	4		7,077	21,701	_	72,02
Hastern,	<del></del> -	• (	<del>,                                    </del>	10	24	4:	40	13,810	14,324		65,99
Atlantic	<b>-</b>	7	~	33	29	۱ د		15,857	17,834	-	06,60
South Atlantic	<b>-</b> ,-	•	:-	100	125	10	2000	5,984 0,250	6,619	112,652	125,255
	- <del>-</del>	o (	4 4	3 65	000	14	000	12.241	15,813	~ ~	75,13
ě	·	• •	- 4	70	500	و.	286	29,388	54,820		93,32
Southwestern	_	2	.—	29	80	9	119	10,447	24.986	-	32,53
Western	şi	•	3	20	23	2	49	7,790	13,678		52,79
Pacific		•	4	133	174	4	316	11,586	24,145		96,12
	1	İ	1								
Total Home Agencies	13	4	24	477	1,004	38	1,560	123,539	219,150	2,566,583	2,909,272
FOREIGN AGENCIES											
West Indies		w	30	184	34	co	257	9,037	6,138	92,302	7,47
Mexico	<del>,  </del> 1	•	48	$\frac{136}{2}$	<del>1</del> 8	(C)	0	10,882	5,976	77,289	94,14
Caribbean		• *	4 -	741	57,	3	9	7,186	8,095	104,364	119,645
Upper Andes	→ 7	4 -	<u> </u>	2,0	14	• 1	$\circ$	3,110	4,665	56,354	64,12
La Flata	<b>-</b> ,	4+	2	× × ×	• (	J.	108	14,532	25,227	97,091	6,85
Brazil	<b>→</b> ₹	<b>⊣</b> (	× .	126	χ,	ဂ ၊	3 5	11,424	34,312	120,300	66,03
A mention	<b>-</b>	o	010	ا د ر	۲. د ا	• 1	U,	5,519	6,593	23,290	33,20
Arabic-Levant	<b>⊣</b> ₹	•	7,	79	10 10	٥١	156	5,459	8,700	216,406	0,56
L'inhippincs	<b>,</b>	•	νí	23	7.7	o ·	) \	4,318	8,422	45,153	68,79
Slam	→ ,	• (	7 1	• 1	21	4 )	9	(	343	· A .	1,16
Çnina	<b>-</b>	x	22	265	42	36	409	19,708	22,702	2,677,683	20,09
Japan	<b>-</b>	•	21	82		7	<b>→</b>	8.840	-	588,849	48,87
Total Foreign Agencies	12	25	301	1,101	314	85	1,838	98.065	182,363	4,329,648	4,610,076
Foreign Correspondents		:	3	42	144	:	189	5.958	6.241	57,862	70,061
**************************************	1	1		1				1 '			
The Home Office	•	•	•	•	•	•	0 20	5,228	5,276	14,892	25,396
* 710.11. T. 617	٤.		1 . 1		•		•				

\* Table I. "Issues," records the number of volumes supplied to distributing Agencies for circulation.

\*\* Table III, "Circulation," records the number of volumes reported as circulated by our Home and Foreign Agencies, and by correspondents in fields not covered by Agencies. The Society does not receive reports on the circulation of volumes issued to Auxiliary Bible Societies, missionary boards at home and abroad, the general trade, individuals, etc. Therefore a total of the complete circulation of volumes it issues are circulated.

Sooner or later. all the volumes it issues are circulated.

† Division Secretaries. ‡ Colporteurs. § Correspondents. | Volunteers. | Those engaged in corresponding, accounting, selling, packing, or shipping.

# Languages and Dialects-180-in Which Work Was Done in 1932

ted 134, the Home Agencies 99, and the Foreign Agencies 111 Languages and Dialects. (See page 5.)

	Ponape Ruk  Arapahoe Aymará Cakchiquel Cherokee Choctaw Cree Dakota Eskimo Kuskokwim Guarani Keres Man Maya Muskogee Navaho Negro—English Ojibwa Ouechua—Ecuador Öjibwa Ouechua—Euglish Line For the Blind English Line Letter New York Point New York Point New York Point Row York Point Bipage American Braille Revised Braille
The Hampanagan and The	Ethiopic  Ewe Grebo K'Pelle L'uba Katanga L'uba Lulua Mpongwe: Omyene Ngala Olunyore Ragoli Swahiji: Zanzibar Tonga Tswa Zulu  Islands—21 Chamorro Gilbert Islands Hawaiian Kusaie Marshall Islands Mortlock Nauru Philippines: Bicol Cebuan Ibanag Ifugao Igorot Ilocano Moro: Sulu Pangasinan Pangasinan Samareño Tagalog
The Bible House reported 134, the Home Agencies 39, and the Folder Agencies 111	Latin Lettish Lithuanian Maltese Norwegian (Gothic) Norwegian (Roman) Ossete Polish Portuguese Romany: Central Bulgarian Russian Russian: White Ruthenian Serbian Slavonic Slovak Slovenian Spanish Yiddish (Judæo-German) For the Blind English Braille English Braille English Braille Spanish Braille English Braille Bortuguese Braille Spanish Braille
le Agencies 33, and t	For the Blind Arabic Braille Arabic Moon Japanese Braille Mandarin Braille Siamese Braille Siamese Braille Siamese Braille Siamese Braille Siamese Braille Albanian Breton Breton Braid Scot Bulgarian Croatian Croatian Croatian Croatian Croatian Croatian Croatian Croatian Croatian Crechoslovakian Crechoslovakian French Crechoslovakian Creck: Ancient Creck: Modern Hungarian Italian Judæo-Spanish
reported 134, the fron	Hindi Kanarese Panjabi Sanskrit Tamil Telugu Urdu (Persian) Japanese Japanese (Roman) Judæo-Persian Korean Korean Korean Kurdish: Kurmanji (Arabic characters) (Arabic characters) Kurdish: Mukri (Arabic characters) Malay Persian Shan Siam: Miao Shan Siam: Miao Syriac: Ancient Syriac: Ancient Syriac: Ancient CArabic characters) (Arabic characters) (Arabic characters) (Arabic characters) (Arabic characters) (Greek characters) (Greek characters)
The Bible House	Asia—63  Ainu Annamese Arabic (Hebrew characters) Armenian: Ancient Armenian: Modern Cambodian China: Wenli, High Wenli, Easy Mandarin Mandarin Mandarin Canton Colloquial Chungchia Foochow Colloquial Chungchia Chungchia Conton Colloquial Chungchia Colloquial Chungchia Colloquial Chungchia Colloquial Conton Colloquial Cochow Colloquial

也

# NEW 25-CENT BIBLE

(at this low price no discount is allowed)

PAGE

SIZE

The kings of Edom. Joseph's two dreams

GENESIS 36, 37

shan: these are the dukes of the Horites, the children of Se'ir in the land of Ē'dŏm.

22 And the children of Lo'tan were Hō'rī and Hē'măm; and Lō'tăn's sister was Tim'na.

23 And the children of Shō'băl were

these; Ål'văn, and Măn'à-hăth, and E'băl, Shē'phō, and Ō'năm.

24 And these are the children of Zib'ē-ŏn; both Ā'jāh, and Ā'nāh: this was that A'nah that found the mules in the wilderness, as he fed the asses of

Zib'ē-ŏn his father.
25 And the children of Ā'nah were these; Dī'shon, and A-hol'i-ba'mah the daughter of A'nah.

26 And these are the children of Di-

shon; Hem'dan, and Esh'ban, and Ith'ran, and Che'ran.

27 The children of E'zer are these;

Bil'hăn, and Zā'à-văn, and Ā'kăn. 28 The children of Di'shan are these; Ŭz, and A'răn.

29 These are the dukes that came of the Hō'rītes; duke Lō'tăn, duke Shō'băl, duke Zib'ē-ŏn, duke Ā'nāh,

30 Duke Di'shon, duke E'zer; duke Dī'shan: these are the dukes that came of Hō'rī, among their dukes in the land of Sē'ir.

31  $\P$  And these are the kings that reigned in the land of  $\bar{E}'$ dom, before there reigned any king over the children of Iş'rā-ĕl

32 And Be'la the son of Be'or reigned in E'dom: and the name of his city was Din'hà-bah.

33 And Bē'là died, and Jō'băb the son of Zē'rāh of Bŏz'rāh reigned in his stead.

34 And Jō'bab died, and Hū'sham of the land of Tem'a-ni reigned in his

35 And Hū'sham died, and Ha'dad the son of Bē'dăd, who smote Mid'i-ăn in the field of Mō'ăb, reigned in his stead: and the name of his city was A'vith.

36 And Hā'dăd died, and Săm'lah of Măs'rē-kah reigned in his stead.

37 And Săm'lah died, and Saul of Rēhō'bŏth by the river reigned in his stead. 38 And Saul died, and Bā'āl-hā'năn the

son of Åch'bor reigned in his stead.

39 And Bā'āl-hā'năn the son of Ăch'bor died, and Hā'dar reigned in his stead: and the name of his city was Pā'ū; and his wife's name was Mē-hět'à-běl, his brethren: and his father rebuked

21 And Di'shon, and E'zer, and Di' the daughter of Ma'tred, the daughter of Měz'ā-hàb.

40 And these are the names of the dukes that came of E'sau, according to their families, after their places, by their names; duke Tim'nah, duke Al' vah, duke Je'theth,

41 Duke A-höl'i-bā'māh, duke E'lāh, duke Pī'nŏn,

42 Duke Kē'năz, duke Tē'măn, duke Mĭb'zär,

43 Duke Măg'dĭ-ĕl, duke Î'răm: these be the dukes of Ē'dŏm, according to their habitations in the land of their possession: he is E'sau the father of the E'dom-ites.

### CHAPTER 37

AND Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Cā'năan.

2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bil'hah, and with the sons of Zil'pah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

3 Now İş'rā-ĕl loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat

of many colors. 4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

5 ¶ And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his

dreams, and for his words.

9 ¶ And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

10 And he told it to his father, and to

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# A Safe Financial Plan

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